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SENATE RESOLUTION 72
By Harper

A RESOLUTION relative to the inclusion of an elective capstone course as part of the family life curriculum.

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 13, establishes a framework for the provision of family life education by local education agencies in Tennessee counties with a certain rate of teenage pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1301(d), requires affected local education agencies "to provide for periodic public hearings and parental conferences to ensure a high level of community and parental input and support for family life instruction"; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1302, requires the State Board of Education to develop a complete prototype plan of family life instruction for utilization by local education agencies that have not devised their own family life programs; and

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WHEREAS, this statute requires the prototype plan to include provisions for "the local education agency to undertake appropriate and adequate measures to encourage and maintain the highest level of parental and community support for family life instruction..."; and

WHEREAS, the prototype plan must also include provisions for "the local education agency to periodically conduct...public meetings for parents to confer with family life instructors to review resource materials and course content, and to offer comments and suggestions"; and

WHEREAS, it is readily apparent from the previously quoted statutory language that parental participation and support is intended to serve as the cornerstone of family life education in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the provision by local education agencies of an elective capstone class to summarize their respective programs of family life education for enrolled students and their parents or guardians would most definitely advance Tennessee's statutory goal of ensuring a high level of parental input and support for family life instruction in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, an elective capstone class held at the conclusion of the program of family life education would not only offer an intensive review of the curriculum, but would also serve to crystallize and bring into sharper focus the lessons, goals and precepts of the program for students and parents alike; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the One Hundred First General Assembly of the State of Tennessee should take all necessary and prudent actions to assure the efficacy and continued improvement of Tennessee's various programs of family life education in our ongoing effort to reduce the incidence of teenage pregnancy in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That each local education agency that is required to implement a program of family life instruction, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1301, is hereby most strongly urged and encouraged to poll the parents or legal guardian(s) of the students enrolled in the LEA's program to determine if such

parents and guardians would be willing to attend with their children a capstone class at the conclusion of the program of family life instruction. If the positive response rate from the parents and guardians who have been surveyed is fifty percent (50%) or greater, the affected local education agency is most strongly urged and encouraged to develop and offer an elective two (2) hour capstone class to summarize its most recently concluded program of family life education. The capstone class should be jointly attended by the students enrolled in such program and their parents or legal guardian(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education is most strongly urged and encouraged to include as part of the prototype plan mandated by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1302, procedures and policies for local implementation of an elective two (2)hour capstone class to summarize the plan's program of family life education, including the promulgation of a mission statement, format, and curriculum for the capstone class.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education who is directed to forward a copy thereof to each affected local education agency in the state, and that an additional enrolled copy be transmitted to the State Board of Education.